

## **CALFED Suisun Marsh Levee Investigation Workshop**

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program is a cooperative effort among state and federal agencies and California's environmental, urban, and agricultural communities. It was initiated in 1995 to address environmental and water management problems associated with the Bay-Delta system, an intricate web of waterways created at the junction of the San Francisco Bay and the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers and the watershed that feeds them. Goals of the CALFED Bay-Delta Program include ecosystem restoration, water quality improvements, enhanced Delta levee system integrity, and increased water supply reliability.

CALFED has added the Suisun Marsh levee system to the Levee Program (one of the CALFED Program elements) as an optional strategy to achieve ecosystem quality, water supply reliability, and water quality objectives. The Suisun Marsh Levee Investigation Team was formed to develop information on the costs, benefits and linkages that including Suisun Marsh levees in the Levee Program may have to CALFED's objectives. The Team is comprised of several CALFED agencies and stakeholders including DWR, DFG, SRCD, and BCDC.

The Team plans to produce an Investigation Report this spring that will be presented to CALFED upper management for use in determining a course of action to be pursued regarding inclusion of the Suisun Marsh levees in the CALFED Levee Program. Initial investigation efforts by the Suisun Marsh Levee Investigation Team have built on modeling efforts that were initiated by DWR following levee breaks during the floods of February 1998. Preliminary modeling analysis has suggested several conclusions, namely that not addressing Suisun Marsh levee maintenance could be detrimental to the CALFED Program's water quality goals and that creation of tidal marsh in some areas could provide water quality improvements for the Delta as well as habitat improvements.

CALFED would not be interested in pursuing any future course of action in the Suisun Marsh without landowner input and support. It is becoming clear that inclusion of Suisun Marsh levees in the CALFED Bay-Delta Program could be mutually beneficial to landowners as well as towards achievement of CALFED Program goals. Inclusion of Suisun Marsh levees in CALFED's Levee Program could potentially provide funding for levee maintenance.

In order to get broader Suisun Marsh stakeholder input into the ongoing Suisun Marsh Levee Investigation, the CALFED Program will conduct a public information workshop on March 6, 2000 from 6:30-9:00pm at the Solano County Office of Education, 5100 Business Center Drive in Fairfield (see map attached). The workshop will be coordinated with the Suisun Resources Conservation District, an active participant in the Team effort. Preliminary investigation information will be presented and landowner input will be solicited. CALFED urges all interested landowners to attend and provide input. For more information on the CALFED Bay-Delta Program, please consult the CALFED Bay-Delta Program website at <<http://calfed.ca.gov>>.